

An improvement on the latter method is to arrange a low "tent" of sacking along the rows as illustrated on this page instead of laying sacks on the ground. If this is done, it is not quite so important to remove the covering as soon as the seedlings come through, but the "tents" should be taken away within 24 hours of that time if possible, to allow the young plants to harden properly.

A fourth method is to cover the rows immediately after they are sown with a light mulch of fine lawn clippings, using sufficient to give complete coverage of the soil along the rows. This method is unsuitable for small seeds such as carrot and lettuce, but is excellent for stronger seedlings like peas and beans.

Lettuce

Lettuce is undoubtedly the most popular of the salad crops and finds a place in most home gardens, particularly this month, when crisp, fresh greens for salads are very welcome. Lettuce is a cool-weather plant and does best when day temperatures are not high and night temperatures are cool. At this time of the year it is difficult to secure firm, compact heads and the plants have a tendency to bolt to seed instead of hearting. The plants should be kept growing steadily and without any checks from dry, hot conditions, which tend to make them bolt.

To keep the soil cool and moist it is a good plan to mulch the rows of lettuces with material such as lawn mowings, light hedge clippings, sawdust, or compost.

As lettuce plants do not transplant satisfactorily in the hot months, it is advisable to sow seed $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep where it is intended to grow the plants and thin seedlings to 6 to 9 in. apart.

As lettuces are subject to scorching if watered overhead in bright sunshine during hot weather, it is advisable to water them in the cool of the evening or to irrigate by using small furrows along which the water is allowed to flow between the rows of plants. Watering should cease as the plants near maturity to prevent the heads from splitting.

Suitable varieties for sowing at this time of year are Great Lakes and Imperial 847 and Neapolitan and Champion Cabbage in districts where conditions are cooler.

Potatoes

In northern districts free from early frosts a small planting may be made of early-maturing potatoes such as



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]
As good quality in sweet corn is obtained for only a short period in a planting of any variety, close attention must be given to harvesting the cobs.

Epicure or Arran Banner. Late planting is not always successful, as much depends on the weather, but where space permits it is worth a trial.

Kohl Rabi

Kohl rabi (turnip-rooted cabbage) is grown for the turnip-like enlargement of the stem above ground. It is not commonly grown in home gardens, although it is an excellent vegetable if used before it becomes tough and stringy. For good quality, growth should be rapid and without checks. Kohl rabi may be sown from early spring to February, but January sowing is most favoured, as the crop then matures in late autumn, when other vegetables are becoming scarce. A rich garden soil will produce excellent kohl rabi. Like cabbage it will not do well on an acid soil, and if this condition exists, it should be corrected by applying carbonate of lime at 4oz. to a square yard.

As kohlrabi does not transplant readily, it is best sown in the permanent position. Sow seed thinly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in rows 18 in. apart and thin plants to 6 to 8 in. apart in the rows. A fertiliser containing 2 parts of blood and bone, 1 part of superphosphate, and $\frac{1}{20}$ part of sulphate of potash, all by weight, applied at the rate of 4oz. per square yard should be worked into the soil several days before planting.

Care should be taken when cultivating to keep the earth from the heart of the plant and not to cover the bulb. The bulb-like stems should be ready for use about 4 months after the seed was sown and should be harvested for use before they are fully matured and when not more than 3 to 4 in. in diameter, as they become coarse and of inferior quality when allowed to grow too large.

Varieties: A very popular variety is White Vienna, an early dwarf which is excellent for home gardens. The bulbs are globular and very light green and the flesh is clear white, tender, and crisp. Purple Vienna takes about a week longer to mature than the white variety; the bulbs and leaves are purplish and the flesh greenish white.

Peas

In most districts January is the latest month for sowing peas to mature before winter. A quick-maturing variety should be chosen, and for southern districts sowings should be made early in the month, because although peas prefer cool conditions, they will not grow in cold weather. They do best in fertile, moist, deeply cultivated soils and usually do well after a crop that was

